Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A backlight device, comprising:

a light source, and

a light guide plate having an end surface adjacent to the light source and an emitting surface;

wherein light components from the light source are introduced into the light guide plate through the end surface of the light guide plate to emit light from the emitting surface as illuminating light;

wherein the emitting surface has a plurality of wedge-shaped grooves in stripes in a plan view and a light diffusion surface having micro-protrusions formed between adjacent wedge-shaped grooves;

wherein light components incident on the light diffusion surface form a first transmitting light component diffusing and emitting from the emitting surface of the light guide plate as illuminating light; and

wherein light components incident on the wedge-shaped grooves are capable of being split into a second transmitting light component diffusing and emitting from the emitting surface of the light guide plate as illuminating light and a reflected light component capable of being re-introduced into the wedge-shaped grooves or the light diffusion surface so as to be emitted from the emitting surface of the light guide plate as illuminating light.

~~for introducing light components from the light source from an incident surface provided on an end surface to emit from an emitting surface thereof,~~

~~wherein the emitting surface of the light guide plate has a plurality of wedge-shape grooves in stripes in a plan view and a light diffusion surface having micro-protrusions formed between adjacent wedge-shaped grooves.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, wherein an extended direction of the wedge-shaped grooves formed in the emitting surface of the light guide plate is parallel to the ~~incident~~ end surface of the light guide plate.

3. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, wherein an extended direction of the micro-protrusions formed in the emitting surface of the light guide plate is either parallel or ~~to the incident surface of the light guide plate or is~~ perpendicular to the ~~incident~~ end surface of the light guide plate.

4. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1,

wherein the depth of a first wedge-shaped groove is deeper than the depth of a second wedge-shaped groove closer to the light source than the first wedge-shaped groove, or

wherein the distance between a first pair of adjacent wedge-shaped grooves is shorter than the distance between a second pair of adjacent wedge-shaped grooves closer to the light source than the first pair of adjacent wedge-shape grooves.

5. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 44, wherein ~~the~~ the depth ~~D_b~~ of a first ~~the~~ wedge-shaped groove~~s far from the light source~~ is deeper than the depth of ~~that of the~~ a second wedge-shaped groove s closer to the light source than the first wedge-shaped groove.

6. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 44, wherein the distance ~~P_b~~ between a first pair of adjacent wedge-shaped grooves is shorter than the distance between a second pair of adjacent wedge-shaped grooves~~s far from the light source is shorter than that between adjacent wedge-shaped grooves~~ closer to the light source than the first pair of adjacent wedge-shape grooves.

7. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, comprising ~~wherein~~ a diffusive reflector ~~having~~ comprising micro-irregularities on a base surface of the diffusive reflector reflecting light therefrom, wherein the base surface is directed to a surface of the light guide plate opposite the ~~having light reflectivity formed on a base surface is formed such that the micro-irregularities formed surface is opposite to another~~emitting surface ~~of the light guide plate~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, comprising ~~wherein~~ a light directivity adjusting sheet formed on the emitting surface of the light guide plate, the light directivity sheet having a base body comprising a plurality of pyramid-shaped bodies having ~~formed on a base body is formed on the emitting surface of the light guide plate such that~~ tips ~~of the pyramid-shaped bodies are~~ directed ~~to a direction~~ opposite to ~~to that to~~ the light guide plate, ~~and~~

wherein the light directivity adjusting sheet controls directivities of transmitted light components in at least two different directions among the light components emitted from the emitting surface of the light guide plate ~~and~~ or transmitted through the light directivity adjusting sheet.

9. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 8, comprising ~~wherein~~ micro-irregularities formed on the surface of the light directivity adjusting sheet facing ~~having light diffusivity are formed on~~ the emitting surface of the ~~light directivity adjusting sheet facing the~~ light guide plate so as to diffuse light emitted from the emitting surface.

10. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, wherein a first thickness of the light guide plate at a first distance from the light source is less than a second thickness of the ~~far from the light source is thinner~~

~~than that of the~~ light guide plate at a second distance from the light source, wherein the first distance is farther from the light source than the second distance~~close to the light source~~.

11. (Currently Amended) A backlight device according to Claim 1, wherein the light source comprises a middle light guide body arranged along the end surface of the light guide plate and ~~a~~ point light source~~s~~ ~~arranged in the end surface of a longitudinal direction~~positioned on the ends of the middle ~~of the middle li~~light guide body in a longitudinal direction.

12. (Currently Amended) A liquid crystal display device, comprising:

a backlight device according to Claim 1, and

a liquid crystal display unit illuminated ~~from the back surface~~ by the backlight device.